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## Title 38 - Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief

### Chapter I - Department of Veterans Affairs

#### Part 4 - Schedule for Rating Disabilities

##### Subpart B - Disability Ratings

##### The Skin

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. 1155, unless otherwise noted.

**Source:** 29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 4.118 Schedule of ratings - skin.

- (a) For the purposes of this section, systemic therapy is treatment that is administered through any route (orally, injection, suppository, intranasally) other than the skin, and topical therapy is treatment that is administered through the skin.
- (b) Two or more skin conditions may be combined in accordance with § 4.25 only if separate areas of skin are involved. If two or more skin conditions involve the same area of skin, then only the highest evaluation shall be used.

	Rating
7800 Burn scar(s) of the head, face, or neck; scar(s) of the head, face, or neck due to other causes; or other disfigurement of the head, face, or neck:	
With visible or palpable tissue loss and either gross distortion or asymmetry of three or more features or paired sets of features (nose, chin, forehead, eyes (including eyelids), ears (auricles), cheeks, lips), or; with six or more characteristics of disfigurement	80
With visible or palpable tissue loss and either gross distortion or asymmetry of two features or paired sets of features (nose, chin, forehead, eyes (including eyelids), ears (auricles), cheeks, lips), or; with four or five characteristics of disfigurement	50
With visible or palpable tissue loss and either gross distortion or asymmetry of one feature or paired set of features (nose, chin, forehead, eyes (including eyelids), ears (auricles), cheeks, lips), or; with two or three characteristics of disfigurement	30
With one characteristic of disfigurement	10
<b>Note (1):</b> The 8 characteristics of disfigurement, for purposes of evaluation under § 4.118, are:	
Scar 5 or more inches (13 or more cm.) in length.	
Scar at least one-quarter inch (0.6 cm.) wide at widest part.	
Surface contour of scar elevated or depressed on palpation.	
Scar adherent to underlying tissue.	
Skin hypo-or hyper-pigmented in an area exceeding six square inches (39 sq. cm.).	
Skin texture abnormal (irregular, atrophic, shiny, scaly, etc.) in an area exceeding six square inches (39 sq. cm.).	
Underlying soft tissue missing in an area exceeding six square inches (39 sq. cm.).	
Skin indurated and inflexible in an area exceeding six square inches (39 sq. cm.).	

	Rating
<b>Note (2):</b> Rate tissue loss of the auricle under DC 6207 (loss of auricle) and anatomical loss of the eye under DC 6061 (anatomical loss of both eyes) or DC 6063 (anatomical loss of one eye), as appropriate.	
<b>Note (3):</b> Take into consideration unretouched color photographs when evaluating under these criteria.	
<b>Note (4):</b> Separately evaluate disabling effects other than disfigurement that are associated with individual scar(s) of the head, face, or neck, such as pain, instability, and residuals of associated muscle or nerve injury, under the appropriate diagnostic code(s) and apply § 4.25 to combine the evaluation(s) with the evaluation assigned under this diagnostic code.	
<b>Note (5):</b> The characteristic(s) of disfigurement may be caused by one scar or by multiple scars; the characteristic(s) required to assign a particular evaluation need not be caused by a single scar in order to assign that evaluation.	
7801 Burn scar(s) or scar(s) due to other causes, not of the head, face, or neck, that are associated with underlying soft tissue damage:	
Area or areas of 144 square inches (929 sq. cm.) or greater	40
Area or areas of at least 72 square inches (465 sq. cm.) but less than 144 square inches (929 sq. cm.)	30
Area or areas of at least 12 square inches (77 sq. cm.) but less than 72 square inches (465 sq. cm.)	20
Area or areas of at least 6 square inches (39 sq. cm.) but less than 12 square inches (77 sq. cm.)	10
<b>Note (1):</b> For the purposes of DCs 7801 and 7802, the six (6) zones of the body are defined as each extremity, anterior trunk, and posterior trunk. The midaxillary line divides the anterior trunk from the posterior trunk	
<b>Note (2):</b> A separate evaluation may be assigned for each affected zone of the body under this diagnostic code if there are multiple scars, or a single scar, affecting multiple zones of the body. Combine the separate evaluations under § 4.25. Alternatively, if a higher evaluation would result from adding the areas affected from multiple zones of the body, a single evaluation may also be assigned under this diagnostic code	
7802 Burn scar(s) or scar(s) due to other causes, not of the head, face, or neck, that are not associated with underlying soft tissue damage:	
Area or areas of 144 square inches (929 sq. cm.) or greater	10
<b>Note (1):</b> For the purposes of DCs 7801 and 7802, the six (6) zones of the body are defined as each extremity, anterior trunk, and posterior trunk. The midaxillary line divides the anterior trunk from the posterior trunk	
<b>Note (2):</b> A separate evaluation may be assigned for each affected zone of the body under this diagnostic code if there are multiple scars, or a single scar, affecting multiple zones of the body. Combine the separate evaluations under § 4.25. Alternatively, if a higher evaluation would result from adding the areas affected from multiple zones of the body, a single evaluation may also be assigned under this diagnostic code	
7804 Scar(s), unstable or painful:	
Five or more scars that are unstable or painful	30
Three or four scars that are unstable or painful	20
One or two scars that are unstable or painful	10
<b>Note (1):</b> An unstable scar is one where, for any reason, there is frequent loss of covering of skin over the scar.	

	Rating
<b>Note (2):</b> If one or more scars are both unstable and painful, add 10 percent to the evaluation that is based on the total number of unstable or painful scars	
<b>Note (3):</b> Scars evaluated under diagnostic codes 7800, 7801, 7802, or 7805 may also receive an evaluation under this diagnostic code, when applicable	
7805 Scars, other; and other effects of scars evaluated under diagnostic codes 7800, 7801, 7802, or 7804:	
Evaluate any disabling effect(s) not considered in a rating provided under diagnostic codes 7800-04 under an appropriate diagnostic code	
General Rating Formula For The Skin For DCs 7806, 7809, 7813-7816, 7820-7822, and 7824:	
At least one of the following	60
Characteristic lesions involving more than 40 percent of the entire body or more than 40 percent of exposed areas affected; or	
Constant or near-constant systemic therapy including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, phototherapy, retinoids, biologics, photochemotherapy, psoralen with long-wave ultraviolet-A light (PUVA), or other immunosuppressive drugs required over the past 12-month period	60
At least one of the following	30
Characteristic lesions involving 20 to 40 percent of the entire body or 20 to 40 percent of exposed areas affected; or Systemic therapy including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, phototherapy, retinoids, biologics, photochemotherapy, PUVA, or other immunosuppressive drugs required for a total duration of 6 weeks or more, but not constantly, over the past 12-month period	
At least one of the following	10
Characteristic lesions involving at least 5 percent, but less than 20 percent, of the entire body affected; or	
At least 5 percent, but less than 20 percent, of exposed areas affected; or	
Intermittent systemic therapy including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, phototherapy, retinoids, biologics, photochemotherapy, PUVA, or other immunosuppressive drugs required for a total duration of less than 6 weeks over the past 12-month period	
No more than topical therapy required over the past 12-month period and at least one of the following	0
Characteristic lesions involving less than 5 percent of the entire body affected; or	
Characteristic lesions involving less than 5 percent of exposed areas affected	
Or rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800) or scars (DCs 7801, 7802, 7804, or 7805), depending upon the predominant disability. This rating instruction does not apply to DC 7824	
7806 Dermatitis or eczema.	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7807 American (New World) leishmaniasis (mucocutaneous, espundia):	
Rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800), scars (DC's 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, or 7805), or dermatitis (DC 7806), depending upon the predominant disability	
<b>Note:</b> Evaluate non-cutaneous (visceral) leishmaniasis under DC 6301 (visceral leishmaniasis).	
7808 Old World leishmaniasis (cutaneous, Oriental sore):	
Rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800), scars (DC's, 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, or 7805), or dermatitis (DC 7806), depending upon the predominant disability	
<b>Note:</b> Evaluate non-cutaneous (visceral) leishmaniasis under DC 6301 (visceral leishmaniasis).	

	Rating
7809 Discoid lupus erythematosus.	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
Note: Do not combine with ratings under DC 6350	
7811 Tuberculosis luposa (lupus vulgaris), active or inactive:	
Rate under §§ 4.88c or 4.89, whichever is appropriate	
7813 Dermatophytosis (ringworm: Of body, tinea corporis; of head, tinea capitis; of feet, tinea pedis; of beard area, tinea barbae; of nails, tinea unguium (onychomycosis); of inguinal area (jock itch), tinea cruris; tinea versicolor).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7815 Bullous disorders (including pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigus foliaceus, bullous pemphigoid, dermatitis herpetiformis, epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, benign chronic familial pemphigus (Hailey-Hailey), and porphyria cutanea tarda).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
Note: Rate complications and residuals of mucosal involvement (ocular, oral, gastrointestinal, respiratory, or genitourinary) separately under the appropriate diagnostic code	
7816 Psoriasis.	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
Note: Rate complications such as psoriatic arthritis and other clinical manifestations (e.g., oral mucosa, nails) separately under the appropriate diagnostic code	
7817 Erythroderma:	
Generalized involvement of the skin with systemic manifestations (such as fever, weight loss, or hypoproteinemia) AND one of the following	100
Constant or near-constant systemic therapy such as therapeutic doses of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, retinoids, PUVA (psoralen with long-wave ultraviolet-A light), UVB (ultraviolet-B light) treatments, biologics, or electron beam therapy required over the past 12 month period; or	
No current treatment due to a documented history of treatment failure with 2 or more treatment regimens	100
Generalized involvement of the skin without systemic manifestations and one of the following	
Constant or near-constant systemic therapy such as therapeutic doses of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, retinoids, PUVA, UVB treatments, biologics, or electron beam therapy required over the past 12-month period; or	
No current treatment due to a documented history of treatment failure with 1 treatment regimen	60
Any extent of involvement of the skin, and any of the following therapies required for a total duration of 6 weeks or more, but not constantly, over the past 12-month period: systemic therapy such as therapeutic doses of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, retinoids, PUVA, UVB treatments, biologics, or electron beam therapy	30
Any extent of involvement of the skin, and any of the following therapies required for a total duration of less than 6 weeks over the past 12-month period: systemic therapy such as therapeutic doses of corticosteroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, retinoids, PUVA, UVB treatments, biologics, or electron beam therapy	10
Any extent of involvement of the skin, and no more than topical therapy required over the past 12-month period	0

	Rating
Note: Treatment failure is defined as either disease progression, or less than a 25 percent reduction in the extent and severity of disease after four weeks of prescribed therapy, as documented by medical records	
7818 Malignant skin neoplasms (other than malignant melanoma):	
Rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800), scars (DC's 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, or 7805), or impairment of function	
<b>Note:</b> If a skin malignancy requires therapy that is comparable to that used for systemic malignancies, <i>i.e.</i> , systemic chemotherapy, X-ray therapy more extensive than to the skin, or surgery more extensive than wide local excision, a 100-percent evaluation will be assigned from the date of onset of treatment, and will continue, with a mandatory VA examination six months following the completion of such antineoplastic treatment, and any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination will be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e) of this chapter. If there has been no local recurrence or metastasis, evaluation will then be made on residuals. If treatment is confined to the skin, the provisions for a 100-percent evaluation do not apply.	
7819 Benign skin neoplasms:	
Rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800), scars (DC's 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, or 7805), or impairment of function	
7820 Infections of the skin not listed elsewhere (including bacterial, fungal, viral, treponemal, and parasitic diseases).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7821 Cutaneous manifestations of collagen-vascular diseases not listed elsewhere (including scleroderma, calcinosis cutis, subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus, and dermatomyositis).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7822 Papulosquamous disorders not listed elsewhere (including lichen planus, large or small plaque parapsoriasis, pityriasis lichenoides et varioliformis acuta (PLEVA), lymphomatoid papulosus, mycosis fungoides, and pityriasis rubra pilaris (PRP)).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7823 Vitiligo:	
With exposed areas affected	10
With no exposed areas affected	0
7824 Diseases of keratinization (including ichthyoses, Darier's disease, and palmoplantar keratoderma).	
Evaluate under the General Rating Formula for the Skin	
7825 Chronic urticaria:	
For the purposes of this diagnostic code, chronic urticaria is defined as continuous urticaria at least twice per week, off treatment, for a period of six weeks or more	
Chronic refractory urticaria that requires third line treatment for control (e.g., plasmapheresis, immunotherapy, immunosuppressives) due to ineffectiveness with first and second line treatments	60
Chronic urticaria that requires second line treatment (e.g., corticosteroids, sympathomimetics, leukotriene inhibitors, neutrophil inhibitors, thyroid hormone) for control	30
Chronic urticaria that requires first line treatment (antihistamines) for control	10
7826 Vasculitis, primary cutaneous:	

	Rating
Persistent documented vasculitis episodes refractory to continuous immunosuppressive therapy	60
All of the following	30
Recurrent documented vasculitic episodes occurring four or more times over the past 12-month period; and	
Requiring intermittent systemic immunosuppressive therapy for control	30
At least one of the following	10
Recurrent documented vasculitic episodes occurring one to three times over the past 12-month period, and requiring intermittent systemic immunosuppressive therapy for control; or	
Without recurrent documented vasculitic episodes but requiring continuous systemic medication for control	
Or rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800) or scars (DCs 7801, 7802, 7804, or 7805), depending upon the predominant disability	
7827 Erythema multiforme; Toxic epidermal necrolysis:	
Recurrent mucosal, palmar, or plantar involvement impairing mastication, use of hands, or ambulation occurring four or more times over the past 12-month period despite ongoing immunosuppressive therapy	60
All of the following	30
Recurrent mucosal, palmar, or plantar involvement not impairing mastication, use of hands, or ambulation, occurring four or more times over the past 12-month period; and requiring intermittent systemic therapy	
At least one of the following	10
One to three episodes of mucosal, palmar, or plantar involvement not impairing mastication, use of hands, or ambulation, occurring over the past 12-month period AND requiring intermittent systemic therapy; or	
Without recurrent episodes, but requiring continuous systemic medication for control	
Or rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800) or scars (DCs 7801, 7802, 7804, or 7805), depending upon the predominant disability	
Note: For the purposes of this DC only, systemic therapy may consist of one or more of the following treatment agents: immunosuppressives, antihistamines, or sympathomimetics	
7828 Acne:	
Deep acne (deep inflamed nodules and pus-filled cysts) affecting 40 percent or more of the face and neck	30
Deep acne (deep inflamed nodules and pus-filled cysts) affecting less than 40 percent of the face and neck, or deep acne other than on the face and neck	10
Superficial acne (comedones, papules, pustules) of any extent	0
Or rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800) or scars (DCs 7801, 7802, 7804, or 7805), depending upon the predominant disability	
7829 Chloracne:	
Deep acne (deep inflamed nodules and pus-filled cysts) affecting 40 percent or more of the face and neck	30
Deep acne (deep inflamed nodules and pus-filled cysts) affecting the intertriginous areas (the axilla of the arm, the anogenital region, skin folds of the breasts, or between digits)	20

	Rating
Deep acne (deep inflamed nodules and pus-filled cysts) affecting less than 40 percent of the face and neck; or deep acne affecting non-intertriginous areas of the body (other than the face and neck)	10
Superficial acne (comedones, papules, pustules) of any extent	0
Or rate as disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800) or scars (DCs 7801, 7802, 7804, or 7805), depending upon the predominant disability	
7830 Scarring alopecia:	
Affecting more than 40 percent of the scalp	20
Affecting 20 to 40 percent of the scalp	10
Affecting less than 20 percent of the scalp	0
7831 Alopecia areata:	
With loss of all body hair	10
With loss of hair limited to scalp and face	0
7832 Hyperhidrosis:	
Unable to handle paper or tools because of moisture, and unresponsive to therapy	30
Able to handle paper or tools after therapy	0
7833 Malignant melanoma:	
Rate as scars (DC's 7801, 7802, 7803, 7804, or 7805), disfigurement of the head, face, or neck (DC 7800), or impairment of function (under the appropriate body system)	
<b>Note:</b> If a skin malignancy requires therapy that is comparable to that used for systemic malignancies, <i>i.e.</i> , systemic chemotherapy, X-ray therapy more extensive than to the skin, or surgery more extensive than wide local excision, a 100-percent evaluation will be assigned from the date of onset of treatment, and will continue, with a mandatory VA examination six months following the completion of such antineoplastic treatment, and any change in evaluation based upon that or any subsequent examination will be subject to the provisions of § 3.105(e). If there has been no local recurrence or metastasis, evaluation will then be made on residuals. If treatment is confined to the skin, the provisions for a 100-percent evaluation do not apply.	

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1155)

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